(c) what have been the returns on the capital invested in public sector units;

(d) whether there are any PSUs which were always loss-making;

(e) the names of the PSUs which have not given any return during the last five years;

(f) how many PSUs are not commercially viable; and

(g) what are the reasons for the same alongwith names of the units not viable?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) The total investment in public enterprises in the form of paid up capital plus loan as at the end of 31.3.1996 was Rs. 178628 crores. In terms of return on investment i.e. the ratio of percentage of net profit to capital employed during the years 1991-92 to 1995-96 these were 2.00%, 2.33%, 2.84% 4.42% and 5.68% respectively.

(d) and (e) Nearly 75 enterprises have been incurring losses continuously during the last five years i.e. 1991-92 to 1995-96. Their names alongwith the losses incurred during the last five years have been indicated in Statement No. 7(B) of Public Enterprises Survey 1995-96 laid on the Table of the House on 5.5.1997

(f) and (g) The sick industrial enterprises are referred to BIFR for revival/rehabilitation schemes. The BIFR is to recommend future course of action for such enterprises. The Commercial viability of a unit depends upon a number of factors and variables and cannot be determined in advance.

Dereservation of Items meant for SSIs

521. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating dereservation of 80 items which are presently reserved for the production by SSI units and are presently manufactured by SSI Units;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether in the event of dereservation of items from the exclusive list of products for manufacture by SSI units, if so, what are the plans initiated by Government to safeguard the interests of SSI units which are presently engaged in the production of these 80 items?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Reservation/dereservation is a continuous process and is being reviewed periodically by the Advisory Committee on Reservation constituted by the Government under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951. This Committee meets at regular intervals and recommends to the Government items to be added to and deleted from the reserved list. Interest of the small scale sector is always kept in view, whenever any suggestion is made with regard to changes in the reserved list.

Book Value of the Capital Stock of PSUs

522. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated aggregate book value of capital stock belonging to public industrial undertakings in the country in the bench mark years 1951-52, 1961-62, 1971-72, 1981-82 and 1991-92;

(b) the estimated aggregate value at current prices of the same capital stock in each of the years indicated above; and

(c) the details of output and employment generated in the public sector undertakings in the years mentioned?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Separate data on central public industrial undertakings are available only since 1981-82 onwards. The book value of capital stock of industrial undertakings in the form of net block (gross block minus depreciation) were Rs. 8575 crores and

Rs. 59422 crores during the years 1981-82 and 1991-92 respectively.

(b) The aggregate value at current prices of the same capital stock are not estimated and consolidated.

(c) The output in the form of gross turnover and number of employees in industrial public undertakings during 1981-82 and 1991-92 was Rs. 25759 crores and Rs. 100025 crores and 16.65 lakhs and 18.50 lakhs respectively.

Differences between Government and Disinvestment Commission

523. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the issues which have led to differences between Government and Disinvestment Commission as per reports in the press;

(b) whether steps have been initiated to bridge these differences; and

(c) whether, apart from what is indicated in its terms of reference, the Commission has been issued any guidelines it is expected to follow?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) There are no such issues.

(c) No, Sir.

Decline in Steel consumption

524. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to a study on the Indian Steel sector conducted by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) which has observed that the decline in steel consumption in relation to GDP growth is the main factor constraining the industry's growth; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The average growth of consumption of finished steel in India from 1991 upto 1997 has been about 7.8% compared with everage GDP growtyh of 5.5%. Consumption of steel is related to the stage of economic and industrial development. With accelerated industrial growth and growth in construction industries, consumption of steel is likely to go up further.

Recommendations of G.V. Ramakrishna Commission

525. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that Government are considering the recommendations of G.V. Ramakrishna Commission regarding disinvestment proposals;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is correct that major P.S.Us. are opposed to the proposed disinvestment plan;

(d) if so, what are the major objections and Government view thereon; and

(e) what are the details of disinvestment proposed to be undertaken during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Decision have already been taken regarding the disinvestment in three companies viz. GAIL, MTNL and CONCOR. Other recommendations are under consideration.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Four PSUs i.e. Gas Authority of India Ltd., Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. and Container Corporation of India have been shortlisted for disinvestment during current financial year, the disinvestment in I.O.C., which had been